

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 H-02

CU-04 /037 W

-----122313Z 044334 /66

O 122228Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1472

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 05084

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP, MX

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESIDENTIAL REP TO FRANKLIN/
JEFFERSON EXHIBIT

1. SUGGESTED POINTS FOR INCLUSION IN SPEECH OF PRESIDENTS'
SPECIAL REP TO F/J EXHIBITION, FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1977 -
12 NOON. THE SPECIAL REP WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE
CHARGE HERBERT B. THOMPSON.

2. THANK YOU, MR. THOMPSON. MR. FOREIGN MINISTER,
MR. MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MINISTERS, SENATOR JAVITS,
SENATOR BENTSEN. DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
NOT TOO LONG AGO I HAD THE PLEASURE OF APPEARING
(ATTENDING) AT ANOTHER INAUGURATION EVENT IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., AND I RECALL THAT, ON THAT OCCASION,
WE WERE HONORED WITH THE PRESENCE OF MEXICO'S FIRST
LADY, DONA CARMEN ROMANO DE LOPEZ PORTILLO. TODAY
I NOTE THAT WE ARE AGAIN HONORED TO HAVE WITH US AS
HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THIS EXHIBITION THE SAME
CHARMING PERSON, WHOSE GRACIOUS ENDORSEMENT OF THIS
IMPORTANT CULTURAL UNDERTAKING NOT ONLY EXPRESSES
HER OWN PERSONAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST IN FURTHERING
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BETTER CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
OUR TWO NATIONS, BUT, ONCE AGAIN, EMPHASIZES THE
IMPORTANCE OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ATTACH TO THE FOSTERING
OF A RENEWED SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND
UNDERSTANDING. THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER HAVE
ASKED ME TO CONVEY THEIR DEEPEST AND WARMEST
APPRECIATION TO YOU, MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO, AND TO THE

MANY GOM OFFICIALS WHO MADE THE SHOWING OF "THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON" POSSIBLE IN THIS TRULY OUTSTANDING MUSEUM. I THINK THIS EXHIBITION NOT ONLY SERVES IN MEXICO AS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL--FOLLOWING ITS APPEARANCES OVERSEAS IN PARIS, LONDON AND WARSAW--AND IN THE U.S. IN THE CITIES OF NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES--BUT IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE CREATIVE GENIUS OF THE DESIGNERS CHARLES AND RAY EAMES, WHO ARE THEMSELVES THE BEST LIVING EXAMPLES OF OUR COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CREATIVE ARTS. AS YOU WILL SHORTLY SEE, THEY HAVE DESERVEDLY GAINED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IDEAS AND CONCEPTS TO PEOPLE OF MANY NATIONS AND CULTURES. THEIR JOINT EFFORT TRULY EXEMPLIFIES THE ADAGE THAT TWO BRILLIANT HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE.

3. I FEEL ALSO THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO SINGLE OUT THE PRESENCE HERE OF MR. RALPH A. PFEIFFER, JR., THE PRESIDENT OF IBM WORLD TRADE CORPORATION. WITHOUT THE MUNIFICENT SUPPORT OF THE IBM CORPORATION, NONE OF WHAT WE ARE TO SEE TODAY WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IBM'S ENLIGHTENED AND GENEROUS PROGRAM OF SUPPORT TO SUCH ACTIVITIES AS "THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON" EXHIBITION IS A GENUINE TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN BUSINESS'S LONG TRADITION OF ENDEAVORS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE CULTURAL AND PHILANTHROPIC FIELDS.

4. WE MUST GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SECRETARIAT
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OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, THE SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND TO THE DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY FOR COOPERATING TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE. FINALLY, THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN ARTIFACTS AND PAINTINGS IN THIS EXHIBIT, WHICH HELP TO SHOW THE RICH CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SPAIN AND INDEPENDENT MEXICO DURING THE TIME OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON, ARE ON LOAN FROM NUMEROUS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS IN MEXICO, AND WERE EXPERTLY ASSEMBLED BY MRS. CONNIE CONSTANTINE. TO THESE DONORS, AND TO MRS. CONSTANTINE WE EXTEND OUR VERY SPECIAL GRATITUDE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND CULTURAL GOODWILL.

5. THIS EXHIBITION--"THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON"--HONORS THE MEMORIES AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TWO OF THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS BEHIND THE NORTH AMERICAN REVOLUTION OF INDEPENDENCE. THE LIVES AND THE EXAMPLES SET BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND THOMAS

JEFFERSON IMPRESSED AND INFLUENCED THE THINKING AND, INDEED, THE ACTIONS OF INDEPENDENCE-MINDED LEADERS ALL OVER AMERICA, EUROPE AND ACROSS THE WORLD IN THE LATE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES. THEIR PRACTICAL DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS TOUCHED AND AFFECTED THE DAILY LIVES OF THE COMMON MAN. EVEN TODAY, PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD STILL FEEL IN TANGIBLE AS WELL AS SPIRITUAL WAYS THE LEGACY OF THESE TWO GREAT MEN.

6. AN EXAMINATION OF THE HISTORIES OF THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS OF OUR TWO NATIONS, MEXICO AND THE UNITED

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 H-02

CU-04 /037 W

-----122314Z 044348 /66

O 122228Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1473

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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STATES, WILL REVEAL MANY DISPARITIES; THE STRIKING SIMILARITIES AND PARALLELS, UNFORTUNATELY, ARE TOO OFTEN OVERLOOKED. WHILE THE MEXICAN "INDEPENDISTAS" LOOKED TO THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT, WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT BEGINNING ABOUT 1804 THE "ILUSTRADOS" IN NEW SPAIN LOOKED TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR INSPIRATION, THAT THE MEXICAN FEDERALISTS' POSITION WAS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE JEFFERSONIANS TO THE NORTH, AND THAT THE BASIC TENET OF BOTH OUR NATIONS THAT "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL," WRITTEN INTO THE NORTH AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, PRECEDED THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN BY 13 YEARS. MORE THAN 30 YEARS AFTER JEFFERSON'S DECLARATION, MORELOS PROCLAIMED THAT "ALL THE INHABITANTS EXCEPT EUROPEANS WILL NO LONGER BE DESIGNATED AS INDIANS, MULATTOES OR OTHER CASTES, BUT ALL WILL BE KNOWN AS

AMERICANS."

7. IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT THE MORAL AND POLITICAL
ROOTS OF BOTH THE NORTH AMERICAN AND MEXICAN
REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS WERE AND REMAIN THE SAME, AND
THAT THEY ARE BASED ON DEMOCRACY AND A STRONG
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NATIONALIST AND INDEPENDENT SPIRIT. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
EXPRESSED THIS FEELING WHEN HE ADMONISHED THAT
"THE TRUE ART OF GOVERNING THE COLONIES, IN A NUTSHELL,
IS TO LET THEM GOVERN THEMSELVES." THE SAME DESIRE
FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT FIRED THE HEARTS OF MEXICO'S
EARLY INDEPENDENCE LEADERS ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR, AS IT
HAD TO FRANKLIN, THAT CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH THE
MOTHER COUNTRY WAS NO LONGER A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO
THOSE IN AMERICA WHO WISHED THEIR NEW LANDS TO PROSPER
UNDER THE GOVERNANCE OF SONS OF THOSE VERY LANDS, AS
OPPOSED TO OTHERS WHO OWED THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO WHAT
BY THEN WAS CONSIDERED A FOREIGN AND OPPRESSIVE
DOMINANCE.

8. MIGUEL HIDALGO Y COSTILLA EXPRESSED THE MEXICANS'
DESIRE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT IN 1810 WHEN HE CALLED FOR
UNITY OF THE PEOPLE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONGRESS
"MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE CITIES, VILLAGES
AND PLACES OF THIS REIGN...THEY WILL THEN GOVERN WITH
THE SWEETNESS OF FATHERS; THEY WILL TREAT US AS
BROTHERS; THEY WILL EXTIRPATE POVERTY...FOMENT THE
ARTS; INDUSTRY WILL BE ENLIVENED; WE WILL MAKE FREE USE
OF THE VERY RICH PRODUCTION OF OUR LANDS, AND IN A FEW
YEARS THEIR INHABITANTS WILL ENJOY THE FRUITS THAT
THE SOVEREIGN AUTHOR OF NATURE HAS SCATTERED OVER THIS
VAST CONTINENT."

9. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THOSE IDEALS WHICH WERE PUT
INTO PRACTICE TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO WHEN THE ORIGINAL
THIRTEEN NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES EMBARKED ON THEIR
VENTURE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE ARE STILL UNATTAINABLE
FOR A LARGE POPULATION OF THIS WORLD. THE SITUATION
WHICH MANY OF OUR FOREFATHERS FACED EVERY DAY ARE NOT
TOO DISSIMILAR TO CONDITIONS EXISTING IN MANY PARTS
OF THE WORLD TODAY. THE ISSUES OF HUMAN AND CIVIL
RIGHTS ARE JUST AS PERTINENT TODAY AS THEY WERE
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DURING THE DAYS OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON. THE
PROGRESS OF TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT AND
THE ACTUAL APPLICATION OF REASON AND EXPERIENCE TO THE
BENEFIT AND HAPPINESS OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE FREELY
ASSOCIATED UNDER ONE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS STILL
CONSIDERED A REVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT IN VARIOUS CORNERS
OF THE WORLD, EVEN THOUGH THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN MANY OTHER NATIONS.

10. WE THUS FIND STRONG PARALLELS IN THE POLITICAL
THOUGHT THAT INSPIRED THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS OF
BOTH MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES AND WHICH CONTINUES
TO GUIDE THE TWO NATIONS EVEN TODAY. THIS SIMILAR
EXPERIENCE INDUCED A SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING BY
MEXICO OF THE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH ITS NEIGHBOR TO THE
NORTH WAS STRUGGLING. THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS TO
MANIFEST ITSELF MANY YEARS LATER IN MEXICO'S ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS EVENTS COMMEMORATING THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES, FOR WHICH "THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND
JEFFERSON" EXHIBITION SERVES AS A FITTING CULMINATION.

11. THESE EVENTS, TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION HERE, WERE
MORE THAN A RECOGNITION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY-THEY WERE, IN ESSENCE, A HERALDING OF
SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CULTURES MOVING THROUGH THE
INTERWOVEN HISTORY OF BOTH OUR NATIONS. "THE WORLD
OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON" DOES NOT MERELY SIGNIFY
THE COMPLETION OF THE JOINT BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES
BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES, IT ALSO SYMBOLIZES

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 H-02
CU-04 /037 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1474

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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A NEW ERA OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THIS RENEWED SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING WAS PUBLICLY ENUNCIATED BY PRESIDENTS LOPEZ PORTILLO AND JIMMY CARTER IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR DURING THEIR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AT THAT TIME, PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO SAID THAT "FRIENDSHIP PERMITS US TO MAKE PROGRESS...AND WE MEXICANS WISH TO BE GOOD FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." MOVED BY THE SAME SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING, PRESIDENT CARTER PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD STRIVE TOWARD AN "UNPRECEDENTED AND CONTINUED DEMONSTRATION OF COMMON CONFIDENCE AND FRIENDSHIP."

12. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SPLENDID EXHIBITION WILL ILLUMINATE THE IDEALS OF LIBERTY AND PEACE THAT CONTINUE TO INSPIRE OUR LEADERS AND OUR PEOPLE-AS UNQUENCHABLY NOW AS IN THE TIME OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON. THANK YOU."

13. OFFICIAL OF THE PRESIDENCIA (ESTADO MAYOR) THEN INTRODUCES MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO, WHO RESPONDS TO THE REP'S REMARKS. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO05084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-0152
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770466/aaaacfjs.tel
Line Count: 301
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b45bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2833564
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESIDENTIAL REP TO FRANKLIN/ JEFFERSON EXHIBIT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, SCUL, MX, US
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b45bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009